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# Rapid CO gas dispersal from NO Lup’s class III circumstellar disc

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## ABSTRACT

We observed the K7 class III star NO Lup in an ALMA survey of the 1–3 Myr Lupus association and detected circumstellar dust and CO gas. Here we show that the  $J = 3-2$  CO emission is both spectrally and spatially resolved, with a broad velocity width  $\sim 19 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  for its resolved size  $\sim 1 \text{ arcsec}$  ( $\sim 130 \text{ au}$ ). We model the gas emission as a Keplerian disc, finding consistency, but only with a central mass of  $\sim 11 M_{\odot}$ , which is implausible given its spectral type and X-Shooter spectrum. A good fit to the data can also be found by modelling the CO emission as outflowing gas with a radial velocity  $\sim 22 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . We interpret NO Lup’s CO emission as the first imaged class III circumstellar disc with outflowing gas. We conclude that the CO is continually replenished, but cannot say if this is from the breakup of icy planetesimals or from the last remnants of the protoplanetary disc. We suggest further work to explore the origin of this CO, and its higher than expected velocity in comparison to photoevaporative models.

**Key words:** (*stars:*) circumstellar matter – (*stars:*) planetary systems – submillimetre: planetary systems.

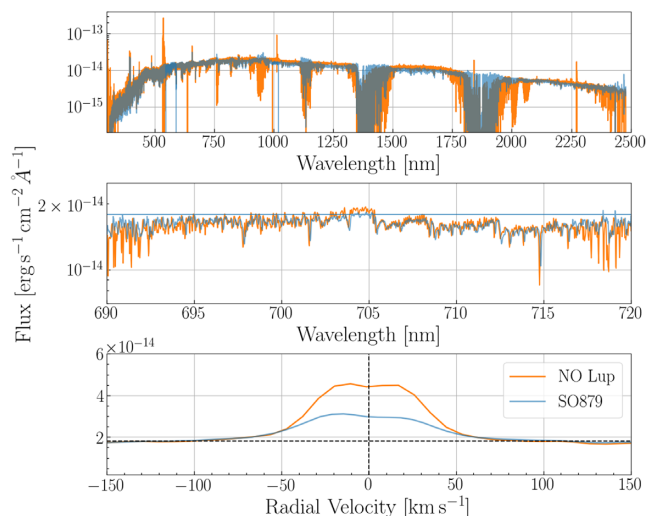
## 1 INTRODUCTION

Stars are born with protoplanetary discs containing large quantities of primordial gas and dust that persist for several Myr before dispersing on rapid  $\sim 0.1 \text{ Myr}$  time-scales (Ercolano & Pascucci 2017). Circumstellar discs are also seen around older stars ( $\gtrsim 10 \text{ Myr}$ ), known as debris discs, where the dust and gas is inferred to be secondary, created in the destruction of planetesimals that must be volatile-rich to replenish the gas (Wyatt 2008; Dent et al. 2014; Marino et al. 2016; Moór et al. 2017; Matrà et al. 2017; Kral et al. 2017). The transition between the two types of disc is not well understood, but is thought to involve a combination of gas being accreted on to the star or being expelled from the system by disc winds driven by photoevaporation or magnetohydrodynamics (MHD), as well as planet-formation processes (Williams & Cieza 2011; Wyatt et al. 2015; Lesur 2020). Class III stars are those in star-forming regions for which infrared emission shows an absence of hot dust, suggesting that the star’s protoplanetary disc has either recently dispersed or is in the process of dispersal (Adams, Lada & Shu 1987). However, these stars usually have limited constraints on the presence of cold dust or gas with which to constrain their nature.

A recent ALMA survey of class III stars in Lupus found dust in several systems with dust masses orders of magnitude lower than protoplanetary disc levels and consistent with originating in the progenitors of debris discs seen at later ages, though this does not rule out the possibility that this dust is a remnant of the protoplanetary disc (Lovell et al. 2020). For one of these class III stars, NO Lup,  $J = 3-2$  CO gas was also detected, allowing a more thorough assessment of the nature of its circumstellar environment. Comparison of the inferred mass of CO with that of the 10 Myr old M star TWA 7, for which the level was consistent with secondary production (i.e.  $0.8-80 \times 10^{-6} M_{\oplus}$ ; see Matrà et al. 2019), shows that the CO could indeed be secondary, though as for the dust interpretation, such plausibility does not preclude the possibility that the CO is primordial.

This paper presents a detailed analysis of the CO detected towards NO Lup, using spectral and spatial data not reported in Lovell et al. (2020), constraining the kinematic structure of the gas disc. While circumstellar gas is usually seen in a Keplerian disc, other gas morphologies are possible, such as an outflowing component, which could be a feature of either a depleting primordial disc (Haworth & Owen 2020) or a debris disc. In Section 2 we provide a summary of the NO Lup system and introduce new X-Shooter observations. In Section 3 we extend the analysis of the CO gas by showing the problem with modelling this as a Keplerian disc, and show better consistency in Section 4 by modelling this with an outward

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**Figure 1.** X-Shooter spectra for NO Lup and SO879. Top: full X-Shooter range. Middle: zoomed-in 690–720 nm range. Bottom: H  $\alpha$  line. SO879’s flux is scaled to NO Lup’s median source flux between 698 and 702 nm, and its wavelength corrected to have a common RV with NO Lup based on SO879’s DR2 RV of  $30.10 \pm 0.21 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018).

radial velocity. We interpret our results in Section 5, and conclude in Section 6.

## 2 NO LUP IN CONTEXT

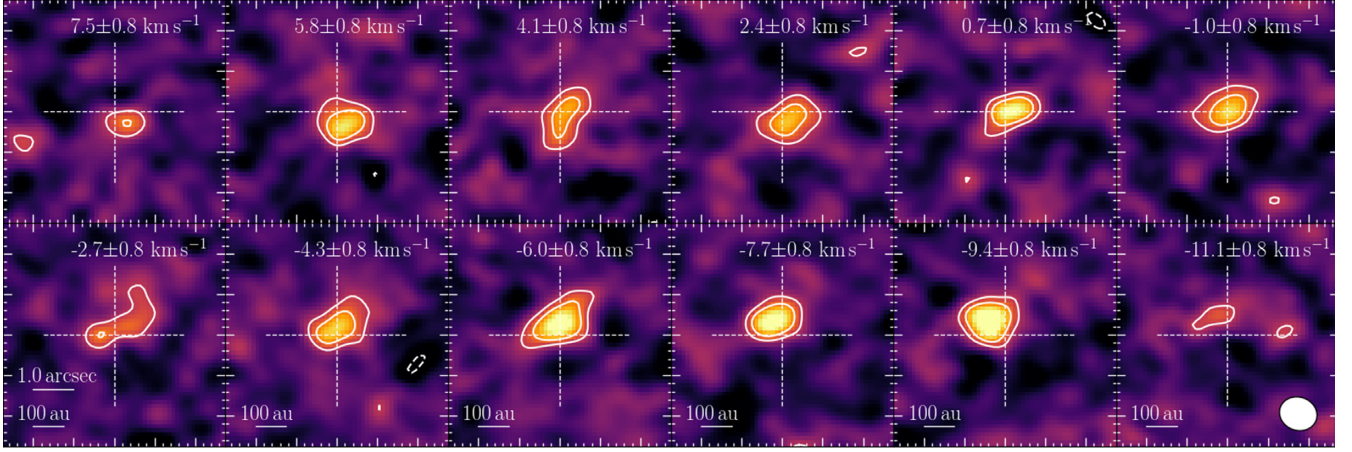
NO Lup (2MASS J160311.8–323920) is located in Cloud I of Lupus at  $\alpha = 16^{\text{h}}03^{\text{m}}11^{\text{s}}.812$ ,  $\delta = -32^{\circ}39'20''.31$  (J2000) at a distance of  $133.7 \pm 0.7 \text{ pc}$  (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018). NO Lup has previously been classified spectrally as non-accreting (Cieza et al. 2013), and as a K7 star (Krautter et al. 1997). The latter is consistent with its *Gaia* DR2 temperature,  $T_{\text{eff}} = 3994 \text{ K}$ , and stellar luminosity,  $L_{\star} = 0.287 L_{\odot}$ , and its well constrained spectral energy distribution (given observations with *WISE*, *Spitzer*, and 2MASS, which found the blackbody planetesimal belt radius to be  $R_{\text{BB}} = 3.2 \pm 0.3 \text{ au}$ ; see Lovell et al. 2020). Analysing the X-Shooter spectrum of NO Lup (project 093.C–0506 A), we confirm both spectral and accretion analyses. By reducing these data using the standard pipeline version 3.5.0 (Modigliani et al. 2010), we show in Fig. 1 (top and middle) the full and zoomed-in X-Shooter spectra for NO Lup, which are consistent with the spectral features of the well characterized class III K7 star, SO879. In the lower panel we show the H  $\alpha$  emission line with an EW =  $-2.80 \pm 0.15 \text{ \AA}$ , which we find to be centred on a radial velocity (RV) of  $-3.5 \pm 2.0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , consistent with the *Gaia* DR2 RV of  $-1.93 \pm 4.08 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and the average RV of Lupus stars,  $\text{RV}_{\text{Lup}} = 2.8 \pm 4.2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (Frasca et al. 2017). This EW is consistent with non-accretion and only slightly higher than, but also consistent with, the line width of non-accreting SO879. Hardy et al. (2015) estimated the stellar mass of NO Lup to be  $M_{\star} = 0.7 M_{\odot}$ . With the models of Siess, Dufour & Forestini (2000) and Baraffe et al. (2015), and the *Gaia* DR2  $L_{\star}$  and  $T_{\text{eff}}$ , we estimated  $M_{\star}$  between  $0.7$  and  $0.8 M_{\odot}$ , consistent with the literature. Although NO Lup has significant emission above the photosphere at 12 and  $24 \mu\text{m}$ , these excesses are small, resulting in mid-IR spectral slopes steeper than those of protoplanetary discs. Unresolved continuum emission was detected by ALMA, implying a dust mass of  $0.036 \pm 0.007 M_{\oplus}$  and disc radius  $< 56 \text{ au}$  (Lovell et al. 2020). These observations also detect CO  $J = 3-2$  line emission, with  $F_{\text{CO}} = 0.29 \pm 0.07 \text{ Jy km s}^{-1}$ , and a width of  $\sim 19 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (between  $-11.0$  and  $+8.1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ), consistent

with being centred on the stellar RV discussed above. Assuming that this emission is optically thin and in local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE) at  $T = 50 \text{ K}$ , this flux corresponds to a CO gas mass of  $4.9 \pm 1.1 \times 10^{-5} M_{\oplus}$ , which for an ISM CO abundance implies a gas-to-dust ratio of  $1.0 \pm 0.4$  (Lovell et al. 2020). We note that a wider temperature range of 20–100 K, consistent with the range of literature gas temperatures, could change this gas mass by at most a factor of  $\sim 2$  (see equations 2 and 8 of Matrà et al. 2017).

## 3 THE PROBLEM WITH A KEPLERIAN DISC

Assuming that the gas is in Keplerian rotation, the width of the CO line can be used to estimate the spatial extent of the emission. For example, if the star has a mass  $\sim 0.7 M_{\odot}$  (see Section 2), the line width indicates a radius of  $\sim 10 \text{ au}$  (or smaller if the disc is not edge on), well below the spatial resolution limit of our measurements. However, we find that the CO emission is spatially resolved. Fig. 2 shows that the centroid of the CO emission transitions from the south-west to the north-east when binned in channels with decreasing RV, as expected for emission that originates in a disc inclined to the plane of the sky. To resolve this emission given a beam of  $(0.94 \times 0.82) \text{ arcsec}$  (at position angle  $70^{\circ}$ ), the disc emission would have to have a radius  $\gtrsim 50 \text{ au}$ . This however would then be inconsistent with the previously inferred  $\sim 10 \text{ au}$  radius for the assumed stellar mass. This conclusion can also be illustrated with the position–velocity (PV) diagram in Fig. 3 (see left-hand plot 1), produced with a  $36^{\circ}$  position angle and  $2 \text{ arcsec}$  slit width, which shows how the offset varies with radial velocity. This agrees with the previous analysis that the velocities are unexpectedly high at a large separation (nearly  $10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  at  $\sim 0.5 \text{ arcsec} = 66 \text{ au}$ ). The curves and radial extension line on this same plot show that for gas to be in a Keplerian orbit the stellar mass would have to be  $\sim 11 M_{\odot}$ , i.e. much higher than  $0.7 M_{\odot}$ .

We use a simple model to explore this Keplerian disc interpretation by assuming that the gas is in a Keplerian orbit with the stellar mass of NO Lup left as a free parameter,  $M_{\star}$ . This *disc model* computes the density of emitting CO for each pixel in a cube that has RA, Dec., and line of sight,  $z$ , as axes. The orientation, position, and RV of the disc in the cube are set by the ascending node,  $\Omega$  (i.e. the position angle, PA, of the disc major axis); the inclination,  $i$ ; a phase centre offset in RA and Dec. ( $x_{\text{off}}$  and  $y_{\text{off}}$ ); the systemic velocity,  $v_{\text{sys}}$ ; and the fixed distance to NO Lup of  $133.7 \text{ pc}$  (see Section 2). The model assumes that the CO density can be modelled with a total flux,  $F$ , and a power-law radial profile, defined between  $r_{\text{in}}$  and  $r_{\text{out}}$  with index  $p$ , for which the volume density goes as  $r^p$ . The model assumes a Gaussian scale height with a fixed aspect ratio,  $\sigma_h = 0.05$ , meaning that the surface density goes as  $\Sigma \propto r^p$ . We fitted the visibilities of channels  $-15.1$  to  $+6.9 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  from the CO line (as done in Kennedy et al. 2019) using the EMCEE package (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013), with 40 walkers and 2000 steps to achieve convergence. The fit gives reasonable results, showing no residuals in the PV diagram  $> 3\sigma$  (see Fig. 3, plots 2 and 3), with the best-fitting model values shown in Table 1. We note that the best-fitting  $v_{\text{sys}} = -3.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  is consistent with that in Section 2, and that this model did not constrain  $p$ , which uniformly varied between the imposed limits of  $-2$  and  $1$ . A similar result was found with a Gaussian radial distribution. This fitting procedure therefore comes to the same conclusion as shown earlier in requiring a stellar mass  $M_{\star} = 11.1 \pm 1.9 M_{\odot}$ , which is significantly greater than expected. Since the stellar luminosity rules out  $\sim 10 \text{ K}$ -type stars within tens of au of NO Lup and the X-Shooter spectra rule out NO Lup being a misclassified star, we conclude that we cannot consistently interpret the CO emission as originating from a Keplerian disc.



**Figure 2.** Averaged channel map (four  $\sim 0.4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  channels per plot), showing the  $\pm 3$  and  $5\sigma$  emission significance. In all plots north is up, east is left, contour lines represent  $\pm 3$  and  $\pm 5\sigma$ , 100 au scale bars are shown in the lower left of the bottom panel plots, the synthesized beam is shown in the bottom-right plot, and the major axis ticks are 1 arcsec wide.

**Table 1.** Best-fitting model parameters. D: disc model; O: outflow model.

Model	$\Omega$ deg	$i$ deg	$r_{\text{in}}$ au	$r_{\text{out}}$ au	$M_{\star}$ $M_{\odot}$	$v_r$ $\text{km s}^{-1}$
D	$36 \pm 3$	$42 \pm 5$	$35 \pm 8$	$90 \pm 5$	$11.1 \pm 1.9$	–
O	$115 \pm 3$	$20 \pm 4$	$20 \pm 4$	$120 \pm 14$	$0.70 \pm 0.05$	$22 \pm 4$

#### 4 AN OUTFLOWING GAS INTERPRETATION

Having ruled out the Keplerian disc interpretation, we explore the possibility that the gas emission is dominated by a radially outflowing velocity component. We define an *outflow model* with a stellar mass fixed at  $0.7M_{\odot}$  (which sets the azimuthal velocity), where the CO emission extends between  $r_{\text{in}}$  and  $r_{\text{out}}$  with a radial velocity,  $v_r$ , which models the CO gas outflow. This is a variant of the disc model of Section 3, with the same disc parameters and geometry, except that the gas also has an additional radial velocity component and the vertical density distribution is modelled as uniform, with fixed lower and upper edges, such that a vertical cross-section through the disc looks like a wedge with an opening angle  $\delta h$ . Allowing for a larger scale height is a rough approximation to disc wind models, where material flows both vertically off the disc and radially outwards. We fitted the visibilities as described above for the disc model. We again find reasonable results (see Fig. 3, plots 4 and 5) and quote the best-fitting model parameters in Table 1, also finding  $v_{\text{sys}} = -3.8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and an unconstrained  $p$ , which we therefore fixed as  $p = -1$ .<sup>1</sup> The outflow model finds  $v_r \approx 22 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , which is higher than the measured velocity from the CO line width and thus dominates the azimuthal velocity for the modelled  $r_{\text{in}}$  and  $r_{\text{out}}$ . The outflow model finds a large opening angle of  $\delta h = 0.3 \pm 0.1$ ; the disc inclination is required to be low to reproduce the spatial extent; thus the scale height is large to maximize the radial component of the velocity and  $v_r$  is significantly larger than the minimum possible value of  $\sim 19/2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Though the flow in the model is mostly radial, the large scale height can be thought of as approximating the significant vertical component present in outflow models. Despite the simplicity of assuming the gas to have an additional radial velocity component,

<sup>1</sup> $p = -1$  is the value expected for mass conservation if the CO is being created at the inner disc edge.

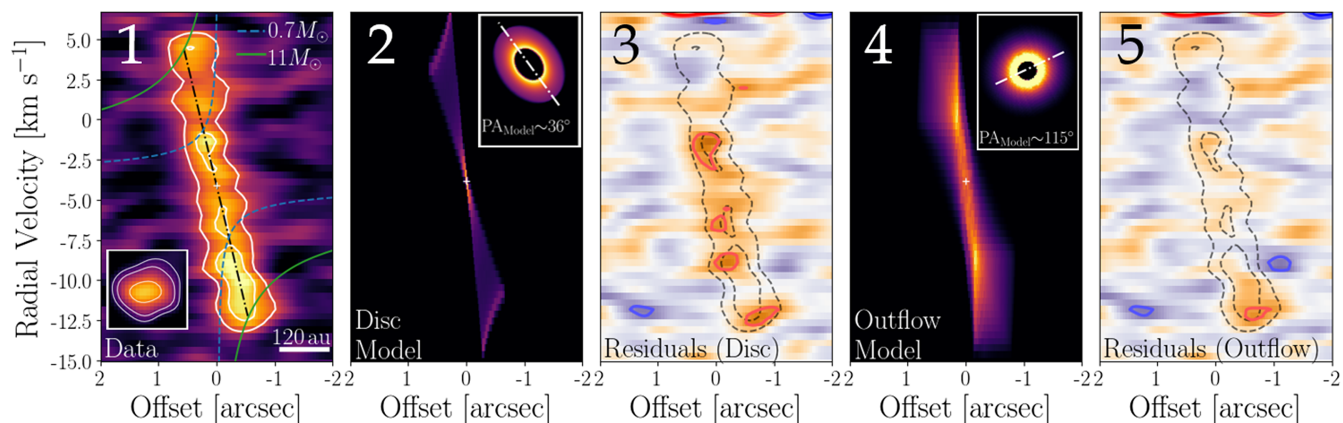
this model shows that the observations are broadly consistent with a scenario in which the gas is radially outflowing.

#### 5 FIRST IMAGED CLASS III GAS DISPERSAL

Whilst we model the CO emission over all the channels in which it is detected, for simplicity we have plotted the two models of Sections 3 and 4 in Fig. 3 as PV diagrams, with their corresponding moment-0 maps as thumbnails. These show that, whereas the models have similar PV diagrams, the position angles of their disc mid-planes are  $\sim 90^\circ$  different, as discussed further in Appendix A. At low spatial resolution, Keplerian disc models and high radial velocity outflowing models (i.e. those in which the radial velocity dominates the azimuthal velocity) can have indistinguishable PV diagrams. This degeneracy can be broken with higher-resolution imaging to measure the PA of the continuum emission, which would confirm the radial (or azimuthal) nature of observed CO velocities.

The simple outflow model presented in Section 4 showed that the observations can be fitted with a constant  $\sim 22 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  radial velocity component. While it may be possible to explain the observations with a lower outflow velocity, for example with a more detailed model of the gas kinematics, any gas flow must be  $\gtrsim 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , given the spectrum line width of  $\sim 19 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . This is high compared to the photoevaporative models of Haworth & Owen (2020), in which the outflowing wind velocity is  $\sim 3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . In fact, this high velocity rules out a scenario in which the gas is a pure photoevaporative wind, since such a wind velocity should be set by the sound speed, and so to reach even  $\sim 10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  would require the CO gas to be at  $T \sim 10\,000 \text{ K}$ , which exceeds the CO thermal dissociation temperature. To accelerate CO gas to such high speeds, additional forces are required (e.g. such as MHD-driven winds; see Lesur 2020 and references therein). Winds thought to be driven by the disc magnetic field have been observed towards less evolved class II stars with similarly high velocities (see Pontoppidan, Blake & Smette 2011). Theoretically, magnetically driven disc winds can be launched with velocities of around several factors of the Keplerian velocity at tens of au (Bai 2016), which at the location of our disc inner edge ( $r_{\text{in}} = 20 \pm 4 \text{ au}$ ) is consistent with our modelled outflow velocity. Thus the tens of  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  velocities inferred here are plausible via this mechanism. Though we are not aware of theoretical works that have looked into the launching of a magnetized disc wind in the conditions of a





**Figure 3.** Plot 1: PV diagram showing the distribution of velocities present at different offsets along a slit width of 2 arcsec and position angle of  $36^\circ$ . The contours show 3 and  $5\sigma$  emission. The curves demonstrate the maximum allowed radial velocities for Keplerian motion around an  $11M_\odot$  star (green solid) and a  $0.7M_\odot$  star (blue dashed), and the radial velocity expected for a disc with an 80 au radius (black dot–dashed slope). The lower-left thumbnail shows the moment-0 map (box extent  $\sim 300$  au, with 3, 6, and  $9\sigma$  contours). Plots 2 and 4: Model PV diagrams using wider slits covering the full model extent; however, we note that the emission beyond 2 arcsec is negligible. The thumbnails show the model moment-0 maps ( $\sim 300$  au box widths) and PAs (see Table 1). Plots 3 and 5: Residual PV diagrams, with  $\pm 2$  and  $\pm 3\sigma$  residuals shown in blue/orange and the same contours as the data (black dashed).

debris disc, we note that 4–12  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  dust outflows were detected towards AU Mic by Boccaletti et al. (2018), and it is worth exploring whether these are launched by a similar mechanism. Interpretation of NO Lup’s CO emission may therefore require modelling a 3D velocity field and MHD driving, in addition to CO photodissociation and shielding (which we discuss below; Kral et al. 2019; Marino et al. 2020).

While we have discussed the parameter  $v_r$  in the outflow model as an outflowing velocity, the fit to the observations is insensitive to the sign of  $v_r$ ; thus we next explore whether the gas is more likely to be infalling or outflowing. To do so, we compare the observed CO mass-loss rate with the upper limit on the CO accretion rate. Assuming  $\dot{M}_{\text{CO}} = M_{\text{CO}} \cdot v_r / R$ , we find  $\dot{M}_{\text{CO}} \sim 3M_\oplus \text{ Myr}^{-1}$ , for  $M_{\text{CO}} \sim 5 \times 10^{-5} M_\oplus$  at  $v_r \sim 22 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , from the mean disc radius  $R = (r_{\text{in}} + r_{\text{out}}) / 2 \sim 70$  au. Since the estimate of  $M_{\text{CO}}$  assumes it is in LTE and that the gas is optically thin, this mass-loss rate is a lower limit. Next, by fitting a polynomial to the continuum near the  $\text{H}\alpha$  line (with the EW stated in Section 2), we obtain a continuum-subtracted line flux of  $\sim 2.9 \times 10^{-15} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , from which we estimate the accretion luminosity as  $\log L_{\text{acc}} / L_\odot \sim -3.04$ , using the empirical relation between line luminosity and accretion luminosity of Alcalá et al. (2017). With  $L_{\text{acc}}$ ,  $M_\star$ , and  $L_\star$  from Section 2 and a stellar radius of  $R_\star \sim 1.3R_\odot$  (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018), we find a  $3\sigma$  upper limit CO mass accretion rate of  $< 0.1M_\oplus \text{ Myr}^{-1}$  for an ISM  $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$  abundance ratio of 10000 (i.e. consistent with the ratio in primordial gas). This is consistent with other non-accreting class III stars (see Manara et al. 2013); however, it is more than 30 times lower than the inferred CO mass-loss rate, indicating that if primordial the CO gas cannot be *inflowing*. While this cannot rule out inflowing gas for lower  $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}$  ratios (e.g. if the gas is produced in a secondary scenario), we rule out inflowing secondary gas later. However, the upper limit on the CO mass accretion rate may provide an important constraint on models for the outflow that require an inflowing component to conserve angular momentum.

To explore the origin of the gas, we first note that CO at 10–20  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  (i.e. 2–4  $\text{au yr}^{-1}$ ) would travel  $\gtrsim 200$  au in 100 yr, i.e. over the CO photodissociation time (Visser, van Dishoeck & Black 2009), although if well shielded the CO could survive much longer. This may suggest that the gas was formed during the recent breakup of a

massive planetesimal; however, such an event would be both rare and leave a distinctive asymmetry in the gas distribution (Jackson et al. 2014), which we do not observe. Rather, the measured  $\sim 130$  au extent of the CO gas could still be consistent with a  $> 100$  yr lifetime, as at larger distances from the star cooler CO is less collisionally excited and so difficult to detect (Matrà et al. 2015). Thus, comparing the extent, velocity, and gas lifetime does not lead to strong constraints, though this may not be the case for neutral CI gas, which is likely a better probe of outflowing gas at larger distances, as suggested by Haworth & Owen (2020). Given typical stellar/disc time-scales of 0.1–1 Myr, the high velocity, however, suggests that the CO must be continuously replenished, as it is extremely unlikely that the CO was imaged within 100 yr after a single or final production event.

The CO reservoir that replenishes the gas may either be in gaseous form (a protoplanetary disc remnant) or in solid form (icy planetesimals in a debris disc). Protoplanetary discs are expected to disperse on  $\sim 100$  kyr time-scales (e.g. Ercolano & Pascucci 2017). While NO Lup’s spectral energy distribution suggests that it has already lost its protoplanetary disc, the dust may have dispersed first, leaving a primordial CO reservoir (e.g. as suggested by Owen & Kollmeier 2019). The detection of CO gas towards 1/30 of the 2 Myr old Lupus class III stars in Lovell et al. (2020) implies plausible dispersal time-scales for such primordial gas remnants of  $\sim 70$  kyr. A potential problem with this, however, is that no CO reservoir with a Keplerian disc signature is present in our observations. For such a CO reservoir to go undetected, its surface brightness, which in the optically thick limit is  $I_\nu = B_\nu(T)A/A_{\text{beam}}$  (where  $A$  is the CO emission area and  $A_{\text{beam}}$  is the beam area), should be below the  $3\sigma$  noise level of  $\sim 9 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$  (see Lovell et al. 2020). If CO emission fills the beam ( $A = A_{\text{beam}}$ ), then this upper limit implies a temperature below  $\sim 4$  K, significantly below the CO sublimation temperature and thus unlikely. For a more reasonable temperature of 50 K, the CO emitting area would need to be  $\sim 150$  times smaller than the beam, and thus a ring at  $r_{\text{in}} \sim 20$  au must have a width narrower than 0.01 au, which is also unlikely. This argues against an optically thick ring of CO being the gas source, though further high-resolution imaging is required to definitively conclude this. A more plausible explanation may be that the wind is replenished by a reservoir of CO in icy planetesimals in the  $R_{\text{BB}} \sim 3$  au belt. Since blackbody disc radii estimates can be  $\gtrsim 5$

× smaller than physical planetesimal belt radii (see equation 8 of Pawellek & Krivov 2015), this  $R_{\text{BB}}$  is consistent with the modelled inner edge of the gas. Moreover, if the CO gas in this scenario is produced in the known planetesimal belt and observed at  $\sim 130$  au, this backs up the previous claim that the gas must be outflowing. Thus, we may be witnessing a short-lived phase *after* protoplanetary disc dispersal in which CO ice is released and dispersed. For example, it may be that following primordial gas dispersal a previously stable reservoir of CO ice became susceptible to sublimation (similar to the mechanism suggested on 486958 Arrokoth by Steckloff et al. 2020), or CO was released as planetesimals were ground down in collisions (Marino et al. 2020). If this is the case, then we may find more examples of class III stars with rapidly dispersing gas winds. Gas winds have not been seen towards older gaseous debris discs, which may indicate that these winds are linked to the evolutionary stage (or spectral type) of the star, or perhaps suppressed by the build-up of other gaseous species over many Myr.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

By analysing the CO gas detected towards the class III star NO Lup, we have demonstrated that the CO has a high velocity width and is spatially resolved. Although we showed that this can be fitted with a Keplerian disc model, this requires the stellar mass of NO Lup to be implausibly high, i.e. 10 times higher than expected. Instead, we have shown that the gas may be outflowing with a high radial velocity, explaining the  $\sim 19 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  width and  $\sim 130$  au spatial scale. We conclude that this gas is outflowing and is being continually replenished, and suggest possible interpretations. We note further work to explore the nature of this detection, such as new high-resolution imaging of the continuum, measurements for the neutral C I gas, and detailed modelling.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY

This work makes use of the following ALMA data: ADS/JAO.ALMA#2018.1.00437.S. ALMA is a partnership of ESO (representing its member states), NSF (USA), and NINS (Japan), together with NRC (Canada), MOST and ASIAA (Taiwan), and

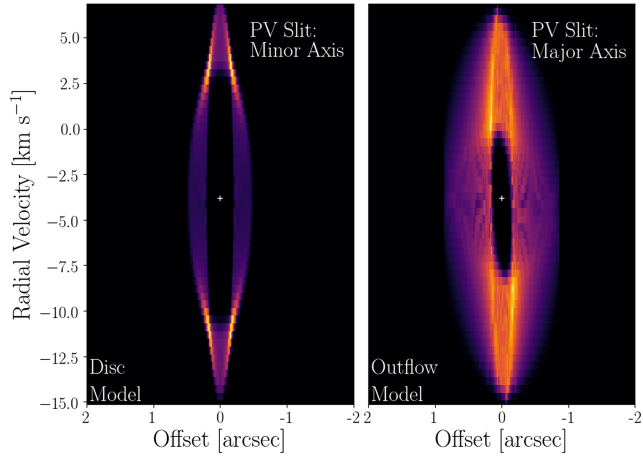
KASI (Republic of Korea), in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. The Joint ALMA Observatory is operated by ESO, AUI/NRAO, and NAOJ. Based on observations collected at the European Southern Observatory under ESO programme 093.C-0506(A).

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## APPENDIX A: PV DIAGRAMS

In Table 1 we show that the two models that fit the observations have disc position angles that are  $\sim 90^\circ$  different. Since our modelling fits all channel maps in the data set (i.e. it does not fit a PV diagram) we have a choice in how we present this. In Fig. 3 we used a slit angle of  $36^\circ$ , i.e. parallel to the direction of motion of the peak in the channel maps, the disc model major axis, and the outflow model minor axis, which produced a stripe (see panels 1, 2, and 4). If instead we place the PV diagram slit PA along the major axis of the outflow model and the minor axis of the disc model, these yield model PV diagrams that are then elliptical, as can be seen in Fig. A1, and similar to those presented in Haworth & Owen (2020). Thus, although the choice of slit PA does not bias our modelling, a different choice will result in a



**Figure A1.** PV diagrams for the disc model and outflow model with their slits taken at  $90^\circ$  to those in Fig. 3 to demonstrate their elliptical nature in this orientation. The outflow model is rotated slightly anticlockwise by the Keplerian motion, though this would be much greater if the radial and Keplerian velocities were more similar.

different visualization, but not one that can distinguish between the Keplerian disc model and the outflow model.

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